



Information Statement

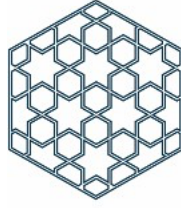
26th June 2025 Fellows Meeting in Cairo



Gabr Fellows with the Chairman of the Foundation, M. Shafik Gabr

On June 26, 2025, the Shafik Gabr Foundation conducted a Fellows Meeting at ARTOC Headquarters in Cairo, gathering Egyptian Fellows from across cohorts for an evening of engaging discussion, thoughtful reflection, and renewed connection.

Chairman Shafik Gabr welcomed the attendees and opened the evening by emphasizing the importance of continued engagement across Fellowship years. Following his remarks, each Fellow and attendee introduced themselves, sharing their background, current work, and reflections on the Fellowship journey. These brief introductions set a tone of openness, connection, and mutual curiosity.



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Short introductions included:

Mohammed Mubarak, 2013 Fellow: Mohammed serves as the Architectural Design Director and Partner at KIM Design Bureau in Cairo and Kuwait, as well as an Urban Designer at Urban Strategies in Toronto. He also serves as a member of the Program Advisory Committee at Sheridan College in Toronto.

Shehab Farouk, 2014 Fellow: Shehab serves as the Legal Director at CMS, a London-headquartered law firm, and is based in Oman. He frequently visits Cairo with his family.

Yasser El Zahar, 2016 Fellow: Yasser serves as the Head of Innovation at Abjjad, an e-book platform catering to Arabic readers across the Middle East and beyond. He is leading efforts to launch an audiobook feature that will be available in both the Middle East and the U.S.

Hanan Khayal, 2018 Fellow: Hanan serves as a consultant with the Social Protection and Jobs Team at the World Bank, supporting the design and implementation of national human development programs in Egypt.

Mohamed El Hawary, 2018 Fellow: Mohamed serves as a Senior Project Manager at Emirates NBD, where he leads initiatives in tokenization, Apple Pay implementation, and overall project management.

Shady El Sherif, 2018 Fellow: Shady serves as an Education Sales Consultant at Oxford University Press and is attending a Summer School in Oslo, Norway, focused on development, energy, and sustainability.

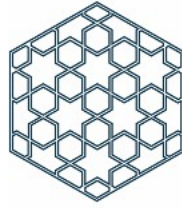
Amr Hesham, 2022 Fellow: Amr serves as a Site Service Engineer at the Central Bank of Egypt and also works as a Food Tour Guide with Bellies En Route.

Wessam Baher, 2022 Fellow: Wessam serves as an HR Manager at QNB and is completing a master's degree in Business and Human Resources at ESLSCA. He is a certified coach and a certified assessor in human resources.

Abdullah Hussein, 2025 Fellow: Abdullah serves as the Senior Advisor for Strategic Programs and Affairs at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Managing Director of Upnxt Experiences, and Chairman of Identechs Smart Solutions.

Ingy Musallam, 2025 Fellow: Ingy serves as a Junior Advisor for the Technical Education and Labor Market Cluster at GIZ. She previously worked on a USAID project implemented by AUC and held internships at UNFPA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Lydia Kamiel, 2025 Fellow: Lydia serves as the Startups Partnerships Lead at CIB.



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Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow: Mariam serves as the Founder and CEO of Fame, a digital marketing agency, and of OneFuture, a new startup. She is also in the process of launching several ventures, including one focused on renewable energy.

Maries El Meshrequey, 2025 Fellow: Maries serves as the Senior Policy and Liaison Associate at the International Organization for Migration (IOM – UN Migration).

Mahmoud El Makkawe, 2025 Fellow: Mahmoud serves as the Digital and Public Diplomacy Officer at the EU Delegation to Egypt.

Mohamed Sobhy, 2025 Fellow: Mohamed serves as an Assistant Lecturer of Public International Law at Zagazig University.

Omar Talaat, 2025 Fellow: Omar serves as a Senior Business Developer at JRNY and led the launch of the PropTech Enablement Program in May.

Youssef Emam, 2025 Fellow: Youssef serves as an Assistant Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Ain Shams University, and as a Corporate Lawyer at Matouk Bassiouny, specializing in mergers and acquisitions.

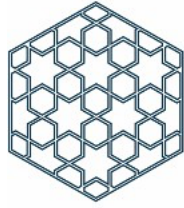
Mr. Gabr made special remarks about Mohammed Mubarak, a 2013 Fellow, recognizing him as a continuing inspiration to the Fellowship even in 2025. He noted that Mohammed's journey—working closely with him and achieving notable success—exemplifies the spirit and potential of the program. Mr. Gabr emphasized his commitment to staying connected with those close to him and following their paths with pride.

Mohammed Mubarak, 2013 Fellow, reflected on his first Fellowship experience, expressing gratitude for having joined the program. He credited Mr. Gabr as a mentor whose life experiences offer invaluable lessons. Mohammed encouraged current Fellows to learn from Mr. Gabr, whom he sees as a guiding figure marked by resilience, perspective, and purpose.

Among the reflections shared:

Mr. Gabr took a moment to recognize Shehab Farouk, 2014 Fellow, calling him one of the most successful Fellows. Shehab is currently doing exceptional work as a Partner and Senior Legal Consultant in Oman, building an international career while remaining deeply rooted in Egypt. Mr. Gabr noted that Shehab's commitment to regularly returning to Cairo reflects the kind of balanced global citizenship the Fellowship seeks to foster.

Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow, shared her experience of joining the Fellowship, explaining how it transformed her outlook and helped her form meaningful international relationships. She expressed her



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aspiration to enter the field of political business and her gratitude for being part of the Fellowship community.

Mr. Gabr reiterated the power of networks and family, underscoring their importance for personal growth, professional development, and global influence. He announced that the next U.S.–Egypt Fellowship reunion is expected in 2026, and fondly recalled the successful 2023 reunion.

On global affairs, Mr. Gabr emphasized the need for reciprocal visa policies, asserting that if one country restricts access, the same standard should apply in return.

Maries Mashrequey, 2025 Fellow, voiced frustration about the feeling of being a lone voice in the face of daily challenges in Egypt. Mr. Gabr responded with encouragement to act, persevere, and influence change, urging Fellows to move beyond talk and aim for real impact.

He highlighted Israel’s disproportionate global influence—despite representing only 1% of the world’s population. He urged Fellows to view themselves as the emerging global elite, capable of initiating change in a highly connected world.

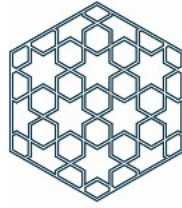
Engy Musallam, 2025 Fellow spoke about her university course on East-West Dialogue at AUC, which opened meaningful conversations with American students. She emphasized that persistence, purpose, and action are essential in shaping influence and leadership.

When asked what defines successful individuals or nations, Mr. Gabr cited:

- Clarity of purpose
- Solidarity and collaboration
- Strategic alliance-building
- A coherent narrative
- Effective self-promotion
- Historical and generational leverage
- Financial means
- Speaking with authenticity, not political correctness

He also discussed U.S. funding of Israeli innovation ecosystems and referenced key historical events including the 1956 Suez Crisis, John F. Kennedy’s opposition to Israeli nuclear ambitions, and the 1967 six-day war.

On AI and misinformation, Mr. Gabr warned of a new era shaped by disinformation and digital paralysis, calling for discernment and responsibility in navigating the digital age.



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Mariam El Sherif, 2025 Fellow reflected that while the world faces countless problems, many solutions are within reach with creativity and determination.

Commenting on the Iran–Israel dynamic, Mr. Gabr described it as a choreographed charade, not a real conflict. He warned that nuclear weapons may become obsolete as AI rises in dominance, referencing recent global events in Portugal and Spain where weaponized AI can paralyze a country.

Mr. Gabr mentioned the Foundation’s ongoing tradition of holding working dinners titled “Expecting the Unexpected” four times a year in Davos, Munich, London, and D.C., noting with regret that one hasn’t been hosted in Egypt yet. He predicted a future where the world will be divided into technology-rich and technology-poor societies—tech-rich human beings, with implanted chips and normal human beings.

To close the evening, Mr. Gabr reflected on Cairo’s rich cultural heritage, reminding attendees that the city once led the region in fashion, cuisine, and intellectual life. While only 24 Fellows are selected each year, Mr. Gabr expressed his wish to accept more if possible.

In attendance were:

Name	Year
Abdullah Hussein	2025
Amr Hesham	2022
Hanan Khayal	2018
Ingy Musallam	2025
Lydia Kamiel	2025
Mahmoud Elmakkawe	2025
Mariam El Sherif	2025
Maries Meshrequey	2025
Mohamed El Hawary	2018
Mohamed Sobhy	2025
Mohammed Mubarak	2013
Omar Talaat	2025
Shady El Sherif	2018
Shehab Farouk	2014
Wessam Baher	2022
Yasser El Zaher	2016
Youssef Emam	2025